Pronoun Usage in Genesis 27:29

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Question

In Genesis 27:29, is the second person pronoun ("you," "thee") grammatically singular or plural in Hebrew?

Answer

The second person pronouns in Genesis 27:29 are **grammatically singular**, referring specifically to **Jacob** as an individual. Hebrew distinguishes clearly between singular and plural forms, and every relevant form in this verse is singular.

Hebrew Grammar Details

Genesis 27:29 contains several second-person forms addressed to Jacob. All are **singular**:

- **"עֲבֻדֶ֔ךָ" (avdûkha)** - "may they serve *you*" (2ms suffix)
- **"יִשְׁתַּחֲוּ־לְךָ֖" (yishtachavu lekha)** - "may they bow down to *you*" (2ms suffix)
- **"אֹרְרֶ֔יךָ" (orerekha)** - "those who curse *you*" (2ms suffix)
- **"מְבָרְכֶ֔יךָ" (mevarekhekha)** - "those who bless *you*" (2ms suffix)

Every suffix here is **-ךָ** (*-kha*), the standard **second masculine singular** form.

Contextual Note

Isaac is blessing Jacob personally. Although the blessing envisions nations and groups interacting with Jacob's descendants, the grammar itself is unambiguously directed to Jacob as a single individual.

Conclusion

The Hebrew text of Genesis 27:29 uses **only singular** second-person forms. The blessing is addressed directly and individually to **Jacob**, not to a collective audience.